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April 9, 2003

County of Origin Labeling Program
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Stop 0249, Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0249

Re: Federal Register Docket No. LS-02-13
Establishment of Guidelines to Voluntary Country of Origin

Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise you that we are big supporters of the county of origin labeling (COOL) for food products, particularly meat as passed by congress.

We believe that the consumers need to know and would like to know where their meat comes from. We know that given the choice in buying any product, we will be buying "American Made Products". We also believe that the cost would be minimal compared to consumers confidence in knowing where their meat from sources really come from.

The voluntary guidelines issued for COOL do not meet the spirit of the legislation passed by Congress, and we respectfully request that you go back to the drawing board and insure that self-certification from all states be sufficient. It is necessary to make sure that foreign meats and American meat are boldly labelled and distinguishable by the consumer.

Sincerely,

Jeff & Tina Esplin